

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-41 (canceled).

Claim 42 (new): A decorative sheet comprising:

a base member having first and second principal surfaces opposed to each other;

a decoration layer provided on the first principal surface of the base member and having a pattern area representing a predetermined pattern; and

a spread suppressing member provided at a location corresponding to the pattern area on the side of the first principal surface or on the side of the second principal surface of the base member, for suppressing the spreading of the pattern area of the decoration layer.

Claim 43 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 42, wherein the base member is made of a resin material.

Claim 44 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 43, wherein the resin

material is a thermoplastic resin material.

Claim 45 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 42, wherein the spread suppressing member has a higher coefficient of thermal conductivity than a coefficient of thermal conductivity of the base member.

Claim 46 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 42, wherein the spread suppressing member is made of a material including one of a metal and a metal compound.

Claim 47 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 42, wherein the spread suppressing member is made of metal.

Claim 48 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 42, wherein the base member is made of a resin material, and the spread suppressing member is made of a material including one of a metal and a metal compound.

Claim 49 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 42, wherein the base member is made of a resin material, and the spread suppressing member is made of metal.

Claim 50 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 42, wherein a

coefficient of thermal conductivity of the spread suppressing member is at least about 10 W/m·K.

Claim 51 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 42, wherein a thickness of the spread suppressing member is in a range of about 5 μm to about 100 μm .

Claim 52 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 42, wherein the spread suppressing member includes a first portion that overlaps the pattern area.

Claim 53 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 52, wherein the spread suppressing member includes a second portion arranged along an outer circumference of the first portion.

Claim 54 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 53, wherein a width of the second portion of the spread suppressing member is in a range of about 1 mm to about 10 mm.

Claim 55 (new): The decorative sheet of claim 53, wherein a width of the second portion of the spread suppressing member is in a range of about 2 mm to about 8 mm.

Claim 56 (new): A molded article comprising a molded article body and the decorative sheet of claim 42 which is joined to a surface of the molded article body.

Claim 57 (new): A molded article comprising:
a molded article body; and
a sheet joined to a surface of the molded article body; wherein
the sheet includes a base member and a decoration layer provided on a surface of the base member on the side of the molded article body;
the decoration layer includes a pattern area representing a predetermined pattern; and
a portion of the sheet corresponding to the pattern area has a thickness which is in a range of about 1.1 times to about 1.8 times a thickness of remaining portions of the sheet.

Claim 58 (new): The molded article of claim 57, wherein the portion of the sheet corresponding to the pattern area has a thickness which is in a range of about 1.2 times to about 1.6 times the thickness of the remaining portions of the sheet.

Claim 59 (new): A motor vehicle comprising the molded article of

claim 56.

Claim 60 (new): A production method of a molded article comprising the steps of:

preparing a decorative sheet including a base member having first and second principal surfaces opposite to each other, a decoration layer provided on the first principal surface of the base member and having a pattern area representing a predetermined pattern, and a spread suppressing member provided in a location corresponding to the pattern area on the side of the first principal surface or on the side of the second principal surface of the base member, for suppressing the spreading of the pattern area of the decoration layer;

preparing a molded article body; and

joining the decorative sheet to a surface of the molded article body.

Claim 61 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, further comprising, before the step of joining the decorative sheet to the surface of the molded article body, the step of heating the decorative sheet.

Claim 62 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, wherein the base member is made of a resin material.

Claim 63 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 62, wherein the resin material is a thermoplastic resin material.

Claim 64 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, wherein the spread suppressing member has a higher coefficient of thermal conductivity than a coefficient of thermal conductivity of the base member.

Claim 65 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, wherein the spread suppressing member is formed from a material including one of a metal and a metal compound.

Claim 66 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, wherein the spread suppressing member is formed of metal.

Claim 67 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, wherein the base member is made of a resin material, and the spread suppressing member is made of a material including one of a metal and a metal compound.

Claim 68 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim

60, wherein the base member is made of a resin material, and the spread suppressing member is made of metal.

Claim 69 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, wherein the coefficient of thermal conductivity of the spread suppressing member is at least about 10 W/m·K.

Claim 70 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, wherein a thickness of the spread suppressing member is in a range of about 5 μm to about 100 μm .

Claim 71 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, wherein the spread suppressing member includes a first portion which overlaps the pattern area.

Claim 72 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 71, wherein the spread suppressing member includes a second portion arranged along an outer circumference of the first portion.

Claim 73 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 72, wherein a width of the second portion of the spread suppressing member is in a range of about 1 mm to about 10 mm.

Claim 74 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 72, wherein a width of the second portion of the spread suppressing member is in a range of about 2 mm to about 8 mm.

Claim 75 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 61, wherein the step of joining the decorative sheet to the surface of the molded article body includes the step of moving the heated decorative sheet closer to the molded article body, and the step of reducing a pressure of a first space formed between the decorative sheet moving closer to the molded article body and the molded article body as compared with a pressure of a second space expanded oppositely to the first space with respect to the decorative sheet.

Claim 76 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 75, wherein the step of moving the decorative sheet closer to the molded article body is performed such that the spread suppressing member faces the second space.

Claim 77 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 75, further comprising, after the step of moving the decorative sheet closer to the molded body, the step of cooling the spread suppressing

member by introducing a gas into the second space.

Claim 78 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, further comprising, after the step of joining the decorative sheet to the surface of the molded body, the step of removing the spread suppressing member.

Claim 79 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, wherein the spread suppressing member is provided on the side of the second principal surface of the base member.

Claim 80 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, wherein, after the step of joining the decorative sheet to the surface of the molded article body, the decoration layer is located between the base member and the molded article body.

Claim 81 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 60, wherein the molded article body includes a first member and a second member disposed on a surface of the first member, and

in the step of joining the decorative sheet to the surface of the molded article body, the decorative sheet is joined to the surface of the molded article body so as to cover both of the first member and the

second member, thereby joining the first member and the second member.

Claim 82 (new): A production method of a molded article comprising the steps of:

preparing a decorative sheet including a base member having first and second principal surfaces opposite to each other, and a decoration layer provided on the first principal surface of the base member and having a pattern area representing a predetermined pattern;

preparing a molded article body;

heating the decorative sheet; and

joining the decorative sheet which is heated to a surface of the molded article body in a condition in which a temperature of a portion of the decorative sheet corresponding to the pattern area is less than a temperature of another portion of the decorative sheet.

Claim 83 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 82, wherein the step of joining the decorative sheet to the surface of the molded article body includes the step of cooling the decorative sheet such that the temperature of the portion corresponding to the pattern area is rapidly reduced as compared to the temperature of the other portion.

Claim 84 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim

82, wherein the decorative sheet further includes a member provided in a location corresponding to the pattern area on the side of the first principal surface or on the side of the second principal surface of the base member and having a higher coefficient of thermal conductivity than a coefficient of thermal conductivity of the base member.

Claim 85 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 84, wherein the member is formed from a material including one of a metal and a metal compound.

Claim 86 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 84, wherein the member is formed of metal.

Claim 87 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 84, wherein the base member is made of a resin material, and the spread suppressing member is made of a material including one of a metal and a metal compound.

Claim 88 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 84, wherein the base member is made of a resin material, and the spread suppressing member is made of metal.

Claim 89 (new): The production method of a molded article of claim 84, wherein a coefficient of thermal conductivity of the member is at least about 10 W/m·K.